



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1164

G&F; licenses; veterans

Purpose

Requires the Arizona Department of Game and Fish (AZDGF) to award a bonus point to a person who submits satisfactory proof of being an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

Background

Statute prohibits a person from taking any wildlife in this state without a valid license or a proof of purchase approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) (A.R.S. § 17-331). *Taking* means pursuing, shooting, hunting, fishing, trapping, killing, capturing, snaring or netting wildlife, which includes all wild mammals, wild birds, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans and fish. Trophy species include: 1) a mule deer buck with at least four points on one antler, not including the eye-guard point; 2) a whitetail deer buck with at least three points on one antler, not including the eye-guard point; 3) a bull elk with at least six points on one antler, including the eye-guard point and the brow-tine point; 4) a pronghorn (antelope) buck with at least one horn exceeding or equal to 14 inches in total length; 5) any bighorn sheep; and 6) any bison (buffalo) (A.R.S. § 17-101).

Each year, AZDGF grants tags – sometimes referred to as license tags or Commissioner’s tags – to selected wildlife conservation organizations. These organizations are charged to “market and sell those tags to raise funds for Arizona’s wildlife” (AZDGF). AZDGF provides tags for 10 big game species: big horn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, antelope, buffalo, turkey, bear, javelina and mountain lion. The tags are generally distributed through raffles, such as the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Each raffle entry is assigned a number through a random number generator program for the drawing. A single entry may receive multiple numbers through the bonus point system as each bonus point qualifies the applicant for the generation of one additional number per bonus point. Of the multiple numbers generated through the bonus point system, the smallest of the numbers is chosen to represent the individual’s entry. The system improves an applicant’s odds of winning since smaller numbers are more likely to be chosen from the raffle. Bonus points are earned in multiple ways, including taking part in hunter education and entering past raffles unsuccessfully.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

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Provisions

1. Requires the AZDGF to award a bonus point to a person who submits satisfactory proof of being an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
2. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

February 8, 2016

AV/JT/lr